

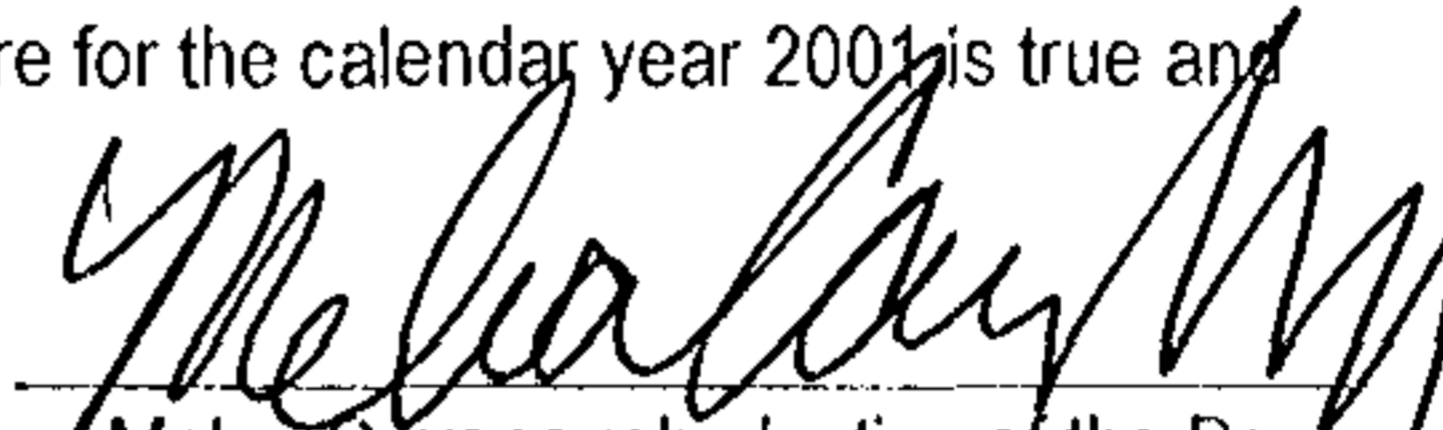
STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

AFFIDAVIT

BEFORE ME, personally came and appeared MELVA CAVANAUGH, Justice of the Peace of Ward 3, District 3, Parish of East Baton Rouge, who, after being first duly sworn, did depose and say:

THAT the financial statement attached hereto are for the calendar year 2001 is true and correct accounting of the fees received by this office.


Melva Cavanaugh, Justice of the Peace

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this 28th day of January, 2002.


NOTARY PUBLIC

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date 1/30/02

Melva Cavanaugh
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Ward 3, District 3, East Baton Rouge Parish
P. O. Box 82365
Baton Rouge, La. 70884

Phone 225-767-5756

Fax 225-769-3318

January 27, 2002

STATEMENT A

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

ASSETS

The only assets this office has is the 8 volume compact edition of the La. Revised Statutes, a paperback Code of Civil Procedure and a paperback Civil Code, which are the only items or funds furnished by the Parish of East Baton Rouge.

LIABILITIES

This office may still owe for the above because even though we sent the bill (\$283.00) to City Parish in February 2001 and thought it paid, I got a bill from West Publishing in December saying it hasn't been paid. I turned the matter over to Brian Meyer in the Mayor's office.

There is a lease on the office, but if I should be defeated this fall, any court in the land will hold that it is my personal obligation, so I don't think that's a liability (if someone defeats me I sincerely doubt they will assume my lease!)

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STATEMENT B

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STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
(There is no fund to balance or change)
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2001

January 27, 2002

REVENUES

State Salary supplement	\$ 900.00	
*Parish salary	\$ 3,600.00	
Total Filing Fees	\$46,844.00	
Less Amounts collected for Constables and Ad Hoc judges when JOP recused	<u>\$ 25,110.00</u>	
Filing Fees actually going to JOP Office	\$21,734.00	
OMV Orders granted	800.00	
Fees for Weddings	<u>\$14,160.00</u>	
TOTAL REVENUE		\$41,194.00

EXPENDITURES

Office Supplies	\$2,086.03	
Phones, Utilities & Security for Ofc.	\$7,270.87	
Rent for office	\$8,080.88	
Advertising	\$3,676.45	
Insurance	\$4,558.23	
Maintenance of office	\$ 480.85	
Dues & Continuing Education	\$ 102.00	
Employees	\$5,340.00	
Professional Services	<u>60.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		<u>\$31,635.31</u>

Balance JP gets to keep for income **\$ 9,558.69****

*This figure should not be considered as "revenue" to the office any more than a Clerk of Court's salary is "revenue". Arguably (and I concur) this SHOULD be "revenue", but since they withhold tax and social security from it, it quacks and waddles like "salary" which ain't revenue.

**As you surely know, a JP's pay consists of one-half the fees for filing and as many weddings as you can come up with and the JP pays for all his/her expenses out of pocket. The only thing East Baton Rouge furnishes its JPs is paperback lawbooks and as you will see from Statement A, that's not a done deal.

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INTRODUCTION

BE IT KNOWN: This is in response to information asked by the Legislative Auditor's Office. The information sought is in bold - my answers below that

How the Court was created, including making reference to the specific La. Revised Statutes

The Louisiana Constitution of 1845 said "The judicial power shall be vested in a Supreme Court, District Courts and Justice of the Peace Courts. It is a constitutional court of law, not statutory.

The purpose of the court

To hear civil litigation within its territorial district under \$3,000.00

The population of the district or the number of people served.

I don't know.

Number of employees

I occasionally hire part-time office help. Never more than one person at a time. My Notary business pays a part time notary entirely out of notary funds who also takes in and files suits at no cost to the Justice of the Peace office.

Quantitative information about the court's operations including:

Criminal charges filed. Justice of the Peace Courts have no criminal jurisdiction so none filed.

Consultations in lieu of charges filed: This is a function of a District Attorney, not a JP

Resolved Disputes. A JP has no authority to resolve ANYTHING that has not been brought as a civil action

Warrants signed. East Baton Rouge JPs don't sign warrants. We have so many judges there isn't a need.

Other: 985 Civil matters

OTHER FUNCTIONS:

Estimate

1,000

Times per year I tell someone on the phone how to get a marriage license

200

Times per year I look up the phone number for another JP for someone

110

Times per year I explain a JP cannot issue a temporary restraining order.

100

Times per year I explain a JP cannot hear juvenile or divorce matters

200

Review paperwork for people OMV sends to my office for an order and explain what they need or why it cannot be done. Only 10 were granted last year.